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To the Chair and members of the MI House Judiciary Committee:

I am Jonathan Beagley, founder and president of the Michigan State University chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy and a senior at MSU. I am writing on my concerns about H.R. 6038 and 6226, banning synthetic cannabinoids. Banning these substances is counterproductive and does not address the root of the issue. These products are used as alternatives to marijuana by those on probation or by those who are afraid of marijuana because of its legal status. Banning these substances will only lead to the synthesis of newer chemicals with similar effects.

These synthetic cannabinoids have not been studied enough for us to know whether they are safe or harmful. Instead of banning these substances, we should encourage research on the relative harm. In the mean time, it would be appropriate to require any manufacturers/distributors of synthetic cannabinoids to properly label their products with a disclaimer regarding the research chemical components.

I urge you to reconsider a ban on these substances and to embrace policy based on solid science and research. It is no longer helpful to try being 'tough on drugs'--its time to starting being 'smart on drugs'.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Beagley
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